

Northern Thailand

& Golden Triangle(Guided Tour)



“The very best South East Asia has to offer the adventure motorcyclist”



Highlights Include:

- Golden Triangle
- Mekong River
- White Temple
- Tribal Villages
- Chiang Mai

Start/Finish Location:Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand

Join us for the motorcycle trip of a lifetime. Having carried out a number of reconnaissance trips over the past few years to various destinations including Vietnam, South America, Northern Thailand & Laos we are delighted to announce that in 2017 Overlanders launched a fully guided tour of Northern Thailand.

Motorcycling in Northern Thailand can only be described as an Adventure of a Lifetime and is a perfect mix of excellent roads, spectacular scenery, culinary delights and most of all very warm and welcoming people.

Included:

- All B&B accommodation in 3 and 4 Star hotels.
- Lunch on all riding days
- Motorcycle Rental of Honda CB500x, Versys 650 etc.
- All Fuel
- Support Vehicle
- Mekong Cruise
- Official Thai Tour Guide (requirement)

Derek: +353 (0) 87 2538472 email: derek@overlanders.ie

David: +353 (0) 87 2982173 email: david@overlanders.ie

Web www.overlanders.ie



- Two motorcycle tour guides (One local and one Overlanders)
- Licensed Tour Company with all relevant permits.

Excluded:

- All Flights
- Evening Meals
- Local attraction entry fees etc.
- Anything not listed above.

Start/Finish location: BP Chiang Mai City Hotel

FAQ:

1. What riding gear: We suggest bringing full summer type/ventilated protective motorcycle riding gear with removal inner/outer waterproof layer. Average temp SHOULD be in the mid-twenties. Kit bags can be left in Chiang Mai during the trip. We would also suggest hydration backpacks and a roll bag for strapping onto the bike. Travel Light!
2. Vaccinations: Contact your GP and see link for further info. As you can see from the itinerary we will be travelling quite close to Burma/Laos borders, Mekong etc.
<http://www.travelhealth.ie/Countries/Thailand.php>
3. Travel Insurance: ESSENTIAL - Travel Insurance including medical repatriation (make sure and check that you're covered for a motorbike trip – a lot of policies have fine print stating you're not over a certain cc).
4. Navigation: If you so wish to have your own form of navigation there are some very good phone app's such as Co-Pilot which we have tried and tested in Thailand. No data fees.
5. Currency: We suggest ordering some Thai Baht from your bank in advance however money can easily be exchanged/withdrawn in Chiang Mai.

Checklist of the more important things:

- Any medication plus pain killers, headache tablets, anti-histamine, motillium, Imodium, rehydration salts, sun cream etc.
- Mosquito repellent – with a good deet content
- Passport valid for over six months
- Drivers Licence

Derek: +353 (0) 87 2538472 email: derek@overlanders.ie

David: +353 (0) 87 2982173 email: david@overlanders.ie

Web www.overlanders.ie

Route Itinerary



Day 1 - Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai - 250KM.

Heading northeast out of Chiang Mai we visit the village of Doi Chang, home do DoiChang Coffee. Located in the Golden Triangle region of Thailand, the village of Doi Chang has not always been known for its coffee. Instead, it was an area, which was known for its opium production and trade, and many grew the cash crop in order to survive and take care of their families. With the help of a Royal initiative of Thailand in 1983, farmers were given Arabica coffee plants to grow. The rich soil in the north of Thailand and the cooler weather helped the coffee to flourish. After producing coffee for over 20 years, and frustrated with the efforts of dealing with third party coffee dealers, the farmers in Doi Chang decided to form their own coalition and sell coffee directly themselves.

We also visit the WatRongKhun, better known as “the White Temple”. The White Temple is one of the most recognizable temples in Thailand. Located outside the town of Chiang Rai the temple attracts a large number of visitors, both Thai and foreign, making it one of Chiang Rai’s most visited attractions.

WatRongKhun is a unique temple that stands out through the white color and the use of pieces of glass in the plaster, sparkling in the sun. The white color signifies the purity of the Buddha, while the glass symbolizes the Buddha’s wisdom and the Dhamma, the Buddhist teachings.



Day 2 – Chiang Rai to Chiang Kong – 160km.

Today we visit the Golden Triangle and the Opium museum. The Golden Triangle is one of Asia's two main opium-producing areas. It is an area of around 950,000 square kilometers that overlaps the mountains of three countries of Southeast Asia: Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Along with Afghanistan in the Golden Crescent, it has been one of the most extensive opium-producing areas of Asia and of the world since the 1950s. Most of the world's heroin came from the Golden Triangle until the early 21st century when Afghanistan became the world's largest producer.

The Golden Triangle designates the confluence of the Ruak River and the Mekong River, since the term has been appropriated by the Thai tourist industry to describe the nearby border tripoint of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.

Day 3 –Chiang Khong to Nan - 310 KM

Highlights include riding along the Laos border and visiting Pu Chi Fa and Phu Sang national parks.

Heading south we visit Phu Chi Fa, a mountain area and national forest park in Thailand. It is located at the northeastern end of the Phi Pan Nam Range, 12 km to the southwest of DoiPha Tang at the eastern edge of Thoeng District, Chiang Rai Province.



The famous cliff is part of an elevated area, the DoiPha Mon sub-range, that rises near the border with Laos sloping towards the Mekong River. The highest point of the ridge, DoiPha Mon, is 1628 m high. With spectacular views over the surrounding mountains, it is one of the famous tourist attractions of the Thai highlands where one can catch a glimpse of the "sea of mist" - the view of the fog-surrounded hills.

In the afternoon we ride the exhilarating, mountainous highway No. 1148 to Nan, ranked in the top 10 it's one of the most fun biking roads to be found anywhere in the world with 120 kilometers of up and down curves through the impressive mountains.

Day 4 –Nan to Dan Sai - 350KM (with shorter options).

Today we have a choice of routes/distances and will visit the SirikitDam/Reservoir- surrounded by dense jungle on all sides and a very beautiful and tranquil area. Named after Queen Sirikit of Thailand the earth dam is built on the Nan river and stands 160m tall and 800m long resulting in a reservoir of circa 10.5 million cubic metres of water used for irrigation and hydroelectric power.

Derek: +353 (0) 87 2538472 email: derek@overlanders.ie

David: +353 (0) 87 2982173 email: david@overlanders.ie

Web www.overlanders.ie

Day 5 –Dan Sai to KhaoKho - 320 KM

Today we visit Nam Nao National Park – one of the last places with wild elephants in Thailand. Designated as national park in 1972, Nam Nao covers 966 km² in the mountainous forests of Phetchabun and Chaiyapum provinces in Northeast Thailand.

It is the best national park in the area and one of best in the country with good wildlife viewing, bird watching and hiking possibilities, supporting a range of IUCN red listed animals and birds.

The park is home to many exciting animal species like elephant, gaur, banteng, leopard, barking deer, sambar deer, golden jackal, Asian black bear, sun bear, wild boar and many more. Elephant droppings on the roads are a very common sight, proof of how common the elephants are, so common that any camping grounds are surrounded with electric fence.

Nam Nao also has over 220 known bird species.



Day 6 –KhaoKho to Sukhothai - 345 KM (with shorter options)

Heading West we visit the KhaoKho and PhuHinRongKla national parks with scenic steep valleys, rugged mountains, rocky terrain, cliffs, caves and waterfalls. Due to its rugged terrain and strategic location, the park was an ideal place for guerrilla warfare and became a stronghold for Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) back in 70's, the remains of their camps and hides are one of the main attractions of the park.



PhuHinRongKla was declared as a national park in 1984, only two years after defeat of the insurgents.

Most of the larger mammals in the park got extirpated during the war between the government and the communists. Although it is believed that a few tigers still roam in the park, there is no evidence however. The size of park is simply not enough to hold a tiger population; there are also no immediate adjacent protected areas any eventual tigers may move between. Some rare sightings in the park are Asian black bear and leopards.



Day 7 - Sukhothai - 0 KM – Rest Day

A welcome opportunity to relax at the resorts swimming pool, Spa, restaurants and wine bar.

Option – Visit the Sukhothai Historical Park - the ruins are one of Thailand's most impressive World Heritage Sites. The park includes the remains of 21 historical sites and four large ponds within the old walls, with an additional 70 sites within a 5km radius.

Day 8 –Sukhothai to Mae Sariang - 360 KM

Today we head west to the border with Burma before following it north into the Thanon Thong Chai Mountains to our destination at Mae Sariang.



Day 9 –Mae Sariang – Mae Hong Son - 170 KM

On the agenda today is the Japanese War Museum and a two and a half hour boat ride up river to visit the some of the Karen tribes and in particular the Karen Padaung. The tribes women are strikingly recognized for the large brass rings they wear around their necks, thus lengthening them and giving them the more common name of 'The Long Neck' tribe. The Padaung call themselves "LaeKur" or "Kayan" and they have their own unique language which originates from Tibeto-Burmese.

Day 10 – Mae Hong Son - Pai– 170/180km

Highlights today include a Mountain Tea Plantation, Chinese Village and an optional cave visit. Destination for today is the small town of Pai. The town's permanent residents are a seemingly harmonious mix of Western hippies, Thai rastas, and muslims which gives the place a unique vibe.

Day 11–Pai - Chiang Mai - 100 KM

Visit the National elephant conservation centre. The Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC), founded in 1993 under Royal Patronage, cares for more than 50 Asian elephants in a beautiful forest conveniently located near the famous city of Chiang Mai. Beyond being an exciting tourist experience, the TECC is also known for its pioneering work in conservation and science. The TECC also proudly houses six of HM King Bhumibol's ten white elephants in the Royal Elephant Stables.

Note: This is a tarmac only tour of moderate difficulty. Participants must be experienced motorcycle riders and should have some previous travel experience.

We will be providing a more detailed itinerary on arrival to include hotel info and GPS co-ordinates. Please note that this is an outline route and maybe subject to change.

Derek: +353 (0) 87 2538472 email: derek@overlanders.ie

David: +353 (0) 87 2982173 email: david@overlanders.ie

Web www.overlanders.ie